

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER WNX-518 AUGUST 11, 2010

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THE DISCIPLINES OF **DESIRE**

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

Week 13 of a 31-Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Christianity 101, Faith, Wisdom, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

Psalm 27:3-4

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **:19 Go therefore** and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20 teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

Psalm 27:3-4

Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident. **:4** One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary

"**Desire** is a wish to possess some form of gratification or source of happiness which is assumed to be obtainable. **Desire** is that internal drive, which, by influencing the will, makes us proceed toward an action.

Desire is the emotion or excitement of the mind, which is focused on the attainment or the possession of an object, which gives pleasure, sensuality, intellectuality or spirituality. I.e.

"We endeavored to see your face with great desire. 1 Thess. 2. Thou satisfy the desires of every living thing. Ps. 145.

Christianity is anything but Stoic.
Enthusiasms, Passion, Zeal are all things divinely placed within us and without them - we would be very colorless.

Children, for example, love the “brilliance” of life !
“daddy, the whale jumped so high that he almost touched the sky” – or “mommy that’s the biggest dog in the world”

WHAT IS THE DISCIPLINE OF DESIRE

IT IS THE TAKING OF THE CONTROLS THAT SEEK TO DRIVE
OUR LIVES FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

A Great Example is:

“The Myth About The Ten Commandments”
<< they don’t let me do anything – **they quench my desires** >>

What’s Wrong with the 10 Commandments ?

(there are a collection of “thou shalt not’s...”)

But the **10 Commandments** are THE commandments that have been designed by God to drive us to absolute **freedom** and **liberty**.

Personal or Self-Desire is at the center of our Christian Battle in Following Jesus.

Romans 15:3

For even Christ did not please Himself;

IN THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE, THERE’S...

THE DISCIPLINE OF DESIRE

1. Identifying what a desire is

Psalm 27:3-4

Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear...

There's an army of enumerable evils
against the Christians life.

Identifying What a Desire is, isn't Brain Surgery;
But Knowing What To Do With a Desire is Another Thing.

Here in Psalm 27

King David could have given into his desire to run or hide or surrender,
he chooses to "Not Fear" – but how did he do that ?

1 John 4:17-18

Love has been **perfected** among (**made known**) us in this: **that we may have boldness in the day of judgment**; because as He is, so are we in this world. :18
There is no **fear** in **Love**; but **perfect love (knowing it)** casts out **fear**, because **fear** involves **torment**. But he who **fears** has not been made perfect in **Love**.

But There Are **Many Types** of Desire.

Some are ugly / some are neutral / some are godly

What would be an ugly desire?

(1) The things I can't talk about in church. (2) The things I shouldn't talk about no matter where I am and (3) the things that offend God.

(1) is obvious. (2) is a danger. (3) is all too common.

Galatians 5:19-21

Now **the works of the flesh** are evident, which are: **adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, :20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, :21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like**; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that **those who practice such things** will not inherit the kingdom of God.

So can a Christian go Get Drunk ?

(Budweiser says I can)

So can a Christian go to the Movies ?

(Roger Ebert says I can)

So can a Christian smoke Pot ?

(the State of Calif. says I can)

Can You “**Praise The Lord Jesus Christ**” Doing That Thing.

What would be a **beautiful** desire?

(1) To want to get as close to Jesus as possible. (2) To find out what He wants me to do with my life. (3) To walk with God thru this life.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, **whatever things** are **true**, **whatever things** are **noble**, **whatever things** are **just**, **whatever things** are **pure**, **whatever things** are **lovely**, **whatever things** are of **good report**, if *there is any* **virtue** and if *there is anything* **praiseworthy**—meditate on these things.

Can You “**Praise The Lord Jesus Christ**” Doing That Thing.

So can a Christian be filled with the H.S. ? *(Bible says I can)*

So can a Christian revolutionize the world ? *(Jesus said I could)*

So can a Christian put a smile on God’s face? *(The Lord says I can)*

IN THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE, THERE’S... THE DISCIPLINE OF DESIRE

2. **Recognizing where a desire comes from**

Psalm 27:4

:4 One thing I have **desired** of the LORD, **that will I seek after:**
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life,

Observable Human Nature Reveals what a man or woman’s desire really is.

“We know that **good desires** come from the Lord Himself - the desire to love and be loved, food, drink, air, sleep, - fellowship with others. There are an enumerable amount of desires that are good and God ordained.

But there are also “**aberrant desires**” that assault the will of God. There are the desires to gain power or control over people. There is the desire to do harm to someone or to even murder.

James 4:1-2

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? **Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war** in your members? :2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war.

Romans 7:21-8:1

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. :22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man :23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. :24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? :25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Our Response Is This

1 Corinthians 15:57-58

But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. :58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

There is Militancy to Our Love for God

Psalms 37:4

Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the **desires** of your heart.

IN THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE, THERE'S... THE DISCIPLINE OF DESIRE

3. Judging the desire against God's Word

Psalms 27:3b-4a

...Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident. :4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek...

Ephesians 5:16-18

redeeming the time, because the days are evil. :17 Therefore **do not be unwise**, (*stop being willfully uniformed*) but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. :18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Our Response Is This

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. :4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, :5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, :6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

1 Corinthians 4:3-5

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. :4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. :5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

IN THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE, THERE'S... THE DISCIPLINE OF DESIRE

4. Taking my desire before the Lord

+ + + + I Think of Hannah + + + +

1 Samuel Chapter 1

So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh... and she went to the tabernacle of the LORD. :10 And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. :11 Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life... :17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." :18 And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer *sad*. :19 Then Elkanah and Hannah rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. :20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name **Samuel**, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."
= **Samuel** means "**The Name of God**"

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* :2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- - - - I Think of Satan - - - -

Matthew 4:8-10

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. :9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." :10 Then Jesus said to him, "*Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*"

A Great Prayer to Pray

Psalm 19:13-14

Lord, keep me from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of transgressions. :14 May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

IN THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE, THERE'S... THE DISCIPLINE OF DESIRE

5. Managing our desire

Psalm 27:4

:4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek after:
That I **may dwell in the house of the LORD** All the days of my life,

The seat of our desire is rooted in our soul.

The soul is the mind of every man or woman. What the mind/soul feeds on, becomes our diet and our mind/soul diet determines how healthy we are as a Christian.

It's Impossible To Manage an Outside of Knowing God's Word.
Every Desire Must Be Held Up To The Light of His Word.

2 Timothy 2:15-16

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (*here's the result church*) :16 shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

A Fatality-Murder Must Take Place

Galatians 6:14-15

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. :15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

1 Peter 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, :7 **casting** all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

casting // ejpirjrJi÷ptw epirrhoipto, ep-ir-hrip'-to;
to throw upon the heap. to fling out and away as far as possible.

Lets Do Some Casting Tonight

Come Forward For a **Time of,**
Dedication & Re-Dedication

End of Study